

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 251

By Fowler

A RESOLUTION To congratulate Arthur Lee and Nellie Mae Rankin on the celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, This General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as exemplars for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, On May 10, 1941, at the First Christian Church in Knoxville, Arthur Rankin and Nellie Mae Welmers were joined in holy matrimony, and since that fateful day this outstanding couple has faced the world as one, basking in the glow of their love for each other during both life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, Arthur and Nellie Mae met at a University of Tennessee Hiking Club outing at The Chimneys in the Great Smoky Mountains in March of 1939. Arthur attempted to impress Nellie Mae with his hiking prowess while attempting to cross a very cold creek; Nellie Mae responded "I hope you fall in!" Arthur made a lasting impression by tumbling into the stream and the rest was history; and

WHEREAS, Arthur is the son of the late Arthur Lee Rankin, Sr. and Eleanor McKenney Rankin of Chattanooga; Nellie Mae is the daughter of the late John and Kate Welmers of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Rankin have been highly respected citizens of the Signal Mountain community for many years; they are the very epitome of good neighbors, as they always endeavor to treat others as they would like to be treated; and

WHEREAS, The Rankins are devoted long-time members of the Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church, which they joined in 1953; both have served their church in many capacities, including the office of Elder; and

WHEREAS, This fine couple's praiseworthy marriage has produced four children, each of whom has excelled in his or her particular field of endeavor; the Rankin children are Judy Rankin Adams, who is married to Charlie Adams; Carolyn Rankin, Maria Rankin, and Arthur Rankin III, husband of Debbie Rankin, State Senator Curtis Person's able assistant; and

WHEREAS, The Rankins are also the proud grandparents of four grandchildren, Wendi Adams Kirby, Charles Adams, Jr., Eric Adams and Lee Rankin; and two great-grandchildren, Beth and Laura Kirby; and

WHEREAS, For 60 years this blessed union has grown and prospered as an expression of time-honored family values and selfless love; and

WHEREAS, Marriages such as the Rankins' are truly the rock-solid foundation upon which our society is built and a beacon of sanity and continuity in these turbulent times; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Rankin on the celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for much continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.